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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Independent Community Newspaper

Vol. 9 No. 5 905-727-3300 auroran.com FREE Week of November 18, 2008

Traffic calming to include Mark

The final phase of the traffic calming measures in the northeast quadrant is underway.

Last year, council approved spending more than \$250,000 to implement the recommendations of a consultant's report which included the installation of a series of traffic calming measures in the residential area north and east of Yonge and Wellington.

These included such features as speed humps and cushions, chicanes, curb expansions, restricted turns and

Fundraiser

The Rotary Club's biggest fundraiser of the year is about to get underway again.

Club members sell hams...thousands of them.

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Or call 905-727-3300 anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, or noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, and place your order.

Hams are expected early in December.

The Maple Leaf Country Kitchen Hams sell for \$25 each.

stop signs.

At the time, speed humps were proposed on Mark Street.

Councillor Evelyn Buck noted that she had never agreed with the original traffic calming proposal back then, and she didn't agree with completing it now.

She, along with Councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas, noted that they would not endorse the installation of these speed humps.

Councillor Evelina MacEachern emphasized that the speed humps were part of the entire proposal, and should be installed so that a proper evaluation could be made of their effectiveness.

In the end, council voted 7-1 to place a copy of the Northeast Quadrant Traffic Calming Post-Implementation Monitoring Report on a more prominent location on the town's website, and for the recommendations of the Report to be referred to a Traffic Safety Advisory Committee meeting.

On a 6-2 vote, staff was directed to proceed with the installation of speed cushions on Mark Street, as recommended by the Report.

Smoke sends firefighters to wrong plaza location

When the Central York Fire Services answered a call at 2.30 a.m. last Tuesday morning, they thought they were going to Aurora's Dairy Queen.

Someone had called in an alarm and said smoke was coming from the Dairy Queen.

Fire Chief John Molyneaux told The Auroran the firefighters broke into the store but nothing inside was burning.

"Only when they went onto the roof, did they discover the fire was at Herss," he said.

Herss is a fitness centre for women.

While there hasn't been a price tag put on the cost of the blaze, Chief Molyneaux said he believed it would be high, since firefighters had to "open the roof" to get at the blaze, and smoke damage to adjacent units was heavy.

Fire and police officials began their investigations Friday, but results were not known when The Auroran went to press Monday.

The plaza is located at the southeast corner of Yonge and Edward Streets.



For the seventh year members of TOAST (Town of Aurora Staff Together) have held a successful bake sale and auction and this year was no exception. Held at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, the event raised more than \$5,300 this year, whereas in previous years, it has raised only half that. All funds raised will be donated to the York Region Children's Aid Society's "Hero Program". Taking part in the event this year, are, left to right, Judy Sherin, Cindy Janzen, Ann Clarke, Angie Roylance, Sara Tienkamp, Carole Wright, and Paula Sheppard. The two children are Cassidy Roylance and Tabetha Sheppard.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

He's baaaack...

Santa Claus returns to Aurora Saturday night, to participate in what has become the Showcase Santa Parade in Ontario.

Held in the evening, the huge parade is a ribbon of music and lights, proceeding south on Yonge Street from Orchard Heights Boulevard to Murray Drive.

Normally, the parade can take more than an hour to pass any single spot, and this year, according to people who know these things, the parade will be even bigger.

Special Events Coordinator Shelley Ware said the parade will be 15 per cent bigger than last year "therefore becoming the largest parade to date".

Even Aurora Council has put together a float this year.

There will also be a float dedicated to the Prince of Wales Award (a horse drawn carriage with Queen Victoria in it complete with the Prince of Wales banner).

Children may bring their letters to Santa which will be collected by Canada Post carriers at the beginning of the parade.

Starting at 6 p.m. the parade is expected to conclude about 8 p.m.

School clubs, entertainment groups and marching bands will flood the street, relishing in the excitement of the season.

Nine professional marching bands will join the crowd from across the region to induce a musical atmosphere, and the parade will feature a record number of mascots: 14. Residents and participants are

encouraged to enjoy the restaurants and cafes that operate along the parade route for dinner, snacks or some hot chocolate to help keep fingers and toes warm.

Prizes are awarded through nine different categories such as best commercial float, best musical float, best decorated float and best original theme.

If you're not one of the 40,000 people expected to watch the parade, you can catch it on cable television.

It will air Friday, December 5 at 6.30 p.m., Saturday, December 6 at 2 p.m. and Sunday, December 7 at 9 a.m. on channel 10.

For more information, contact Ms Ware at 905-726-4762 with any questions.

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COMING EVENTS

Continuing

The Aurora Public Library winter programs have registration forms now available for pickup. Drop off date for Aurora residents begins Saturday, January 3rd. Processing begins Friday, January 9th. Programs being offered include: Books for Babies (6-13 months); Preschool Storytime (3-5 years); Time for Toddlers (14-23 months); Tales for Two (24-35 months) and Caregiver and Child Music programs (6 months-5 years). Visit www.library.aurora.on.ca or phone 905-727-9493 for further information or pick up a program flyer at the Library.

On Tuesdays, until June, the Navy League has a Cadet program for children 9 to 12 years from 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Cliff Davies at 905-727-2244 for details.

On Tuesdays, until June, a Sea Cadet program for youths 13 to 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. Leave message at 905-895-3038.

Aurora Opera Company's Children's Chorus is a new treble voice choir dedicated to educating, nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls in Grades 1 through 12 and consists of two choirs: Angel Choristers, a training choir for 6 and 7 year-olds and the Children Chorus, open to 8 to 17 year-olds. To audition, contact general director Sarah Kyle at keeping@look.ca.

CHAT'S Community Home Assistance to Seniors is looking for volunteers to assist with the activities in its Adult Day Program. The positions call for a commitment of a few hours a week at its Aurora location. Various times are available. Call Christine at 905-713-3494.

Every Tuesday from 9.30 to 11 a.m. it's Story and Playtime at Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South for tots (age 0-4 years) and their caregivers for coffee or tea. Call 905-

841-8883 for further details.
Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age 3 to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls, Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

A drop-in centre will operate every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church on Bathurst Street just south of Henderson from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information e-mail Judy Hoffmann jhoffmann@sympatico.ca.

Scottish Country Dancing every Friday morning at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday evening at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome. For further information call 905-841-1352.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge 148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street, south of Wellington. For more information call 905-830-9205.

Masonic Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at the Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7.30 p.m.

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10.30 a.m. Coffee Club at 9 a.m. and lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080 for more information.

Gamblers Anonymous meets every Tuesday night at Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, at 7.30 p.m.

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night at the Aurora Legion at 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

Canadian Federation of University Women holds monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

The Aurora Seniors Evergreen Choir practice in the West-McKenzie Hall of the seniors' centre, every Wednesday from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. under the direction of Enid Maize.

Tots (age nine months to four years) bring your caregivers for coffee or tea while you enjoy story and playtime every Tuesday from 9.30 to 11 a.m. at Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. Call 905-841-8883 for further information.

Meet at Martha's Table, now in its 4th season, every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. A lunch of hot soup, sandwiches and dessert will be provided. Any funds raised are directed to local charities.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Amnesty International meets at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street at 7.30 p.m. Film on Omar Khadr case. New members are welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6713.

Aurora Chamber of Commerce New Member Orientation Breakfast is an introductory seminar for new members. Presentations by Karen Addison, Acting Executive Director, and by Chamber members. Breakfast is complimentary, and will be held in the Chamber Boardroom, 14483 Yonge Street, from 7.30 a.m. to 8.45 a.m.

CHATS (Community Home Assistance to Seniors) hosts a Salsa Night, a fundraising event to support of United Way of York Region, from 5.30 to 8.30 p.m. at 126 Wellington Street West, Suite 103.

The Salsa Night event raises funds for United Way through ticket sales and a silent auction and includes a chili meal and a salsa dance lesson from a qualified instructor.

Aurora's Dream Team is organizing the second annual Christmas Dream, a special traditional holiday celebration for Aurora residents and families who are in need of support at Christmas. As part of it, a fundraising dinner will be held at Jonathan's Restaurant with dinner, live entertainment and special surprises.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Aurora Legion presents Aurora Borealis featuring Endless Summer with a tribute to the
Please see page 19



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MP1123 (10/2007)



Two members of the Aurora Rotary Club were honoured last week when they each received a pin admitting them to the exclusive Paul Harris Award club. Jack Laurion, left, and Tony Anderson, right, are congratulated by club president Ron Wallace. Paul Harris is the founder of Rotary.



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Aurora engineer dies in hospital

Geoffrey Scott, a popular figure throughout the community of Aurora, died last week at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket.

Born in London, England, Geoff went to Prep School at Ely Cathedral.

In 1940, he went to City & Guilds where he studied Civil Engineering amidst the chaos of World War II.

Upon graduation, he joined the Royal Engineers and served in East Africa, India, and Burma, with his African troops with whom he spoke "kitchen" Swahili.

In 1946, he returned to City & Guilds to work on his



Geoffrey Scott

Masters Degree and subsequently joined the firm of Sandford, Fawcett, and Partners.

In 1952, he was asked to come to Canada to set up the firm called Canadian-British Consultants Limited.

On February 24th, 1953, Geoff arrived at Union Station from New York City, after crossing the Atlantic Ocean on the Queen Mary.

He was involved with many engineering groups, and has received many commendations for his work.

He was especially proud to have been only the second non-American President of the Water Environment Federation in 1979-1980.

In his later years, Geoff performed inspections for

those who wished to obtain insurance for Environmental Impairment Liability. This involved working with insurance companies in Canada, UK, and Switzerland. He traveled extensively throughout Canada with his work.

Geoff loved to travel, meet new people, to garden, and to volunteer, but he also loved to be with his family.

He is the son of the late Thomas E. Scott (CBE, FRIBA) and Rose Peal, and was the husband of Gail (Wilson).

He was the father of Thomas; Timothy (Tanya Bobechko); and Stephen (Sarah) and as a grandad he will be remembered by Gregory, Victoria, Madeleine, Samantha, Colin, and Evan.

Services were held last week at Trinity Anglican Church.

Historical Society gets payment

Questions were raised at last week's council meeting about the approval of a payment of \$10,000 to the Aurora Historical Society for additional services performed by their staff.

Councillor Evelyn Buck raised the issue, noting that the town already paid the Society \$50,000 a year to go towards the salary of the curator.

Asked for the background on the payment, Director of Financial Services John Gutteridge, explained that when renovations were being done to the Church Street School, the town wanted to apply for some grants to help cover the costs.

However, completion of the necessary paperwork was time-consuming and there was not enough staff time available.

Council at the time had therefore approved the additional funding to the Historical Society for the secondment of the curator to complete the necessary forms on the town's behalf.

Eventually, based on these applications, the town was successful in obtaining \$775,000 in grants towards the renovations.

The Treasurer recommended that council approve payment of the \$10,000.

Councillor Bob McRoberts agreed, noting that a council-approved agreement was in place, so this promise should be fulfilled.

Councillor Buck concluded she did not accept any of

the points raised, and she felt that any work done by the curator should have been covered in the Society's \$50,000.

The motion was carried 8-1.

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PUBLIC MEETING NO. 1* *New Location* Wells Street PS Student Accommodation Review

On September 25, 2008, the Board of Trustees for the York Region District School Board approved the formation of an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) for the area served by Wells Street Public School. The Wells Street Public School ARC will study, report and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on accommodation options related to the school.

As per the Board's Accommodation Review Policy #463 and in keeping with the Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines, a minimum of four (4) public meetings will be held. The Board has scheduled the first public meeting as noted below.

Date: **Wednesday, December 3, 2008**

Time: **7:00 p.m.**

Location: ***Aurora High School - Cafetorium
155 Wellington Street West
Aurora, Ontario**

Purpose: Description of the ARC mandate
Outline of Student Accommodation Review Process
Brief overview of the data and issues
Description of the School Valuation Framework
Receive community input on the School Valuation Framework

Contact: Ross Virgo (905) 727-0022 ext. 2380
ross.virgo@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

For additional information and details regarding upcoming meeting and activities, visit the York Region District School Board's website at www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca



Poor Richard

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

Downtown needs fixing

*Aurora's downtown needs fixing,
It's in a very depressed state;
But it needs help from businesses
To save it from an unnecessary fate.*
- Poor Richard's Scrapbook

Aurora Council is to be commended for making another attempt to rescue the downtown business area and bring it back to a vibrant people place with shops and services that are inviting.

In addition, during the negotiations with Whitwell Developments for the development of the shopping centre at Highway 404 and Wellington Street, it was agreed that Whitwell would provide a total of \$130,000 to assist in revitalizing the downtown core.

Council has approved the terms of reference and authorized its staff to initiate a Request for Proposals for consultants to carry out a study of the Yonge-Wellington corridors.

The components of the study will include economic benefits, intensification, traffic/parking issues, transit and pedestrian access, heritage preservation, façade improvements and urban design issues.

The consultant will also investigate incentive programs, grants and tax relief programs such as in the City of Cambridge and Georgina's streetscaping program, the possibility of a Community Improvement Plan, tourism potential and infrastructure requirement limitations.

Goals for the study include the stimulation of economic development and a more profitable place to do business, return downtown to being a focal point for retail/service and special events in the community, improve the appearance of the downtown and create a vibrant street life and maximize the use of the upper floors.

The limits of the study area include a portion of Wellington Street and Yonge Street from Irwin Avenue on the north to Dunning Avenue on the south.

In order for the downtown study to be a success the implementation component must be realistic over the short and long term and it must have the support of the downtown business people.

In July, 1977, businesspeople were invited to attend an information meeting between members of the newly formed Downtown Business Association and members of council to discuss the designation of the downtown core as a Business Improvement Area (BIA).

But the creation of the BIA was effectively stalled as more than 30 downtown merchants opposed it. Another attempt to establish a BIA was launched in November, 1981, and to assist, council authorized the \$45,000 Diamond study and the preparation of a conceptual design for the core area.

In spite of some objections the BIA was launched in February, 1983, with the board of directors setting a budget of \$35,000 to be paid by the merchants, which was opposed by some merchants who refused to pay the levy.

The levy was to be used to improve the streetscape and improve off-street parking.

The disgruntled merchants said the BIA was a dead loss and was money down the drain as it hadn't produced any results.

The BIA reached a boiling point in October, 1986, and there was some doubt as to whether the BIA could continue.

A survey of the merchants was taken resulting in the BIA being disbanded in December, 1986.

An organization designed to create unity brought division and animosity instead.

In October, 2005, another attempt was made to establish a BIA and again an attempt was made in June, 2006, but nothing happened.

The development of a strong BIA is dependent on strong leadership by council, the business community and the community at large.

Council appears willing to play their part and it will be up to the business community to decide to work cooperatively and revitalize the downtown core for the benefit of all.

If it fails, the business community will have no one to blame but themselves.

Don't let history repeat itself.



Victoria Hall, the town-owned building at the corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets, hasn't changed much in the last 60 years. The photo to the right shows the building in 1950 and the one above shows how it looks today. The historic building was one of eight designated last week by Aurora Council under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The complete story appears in this week's Auroran on Page 17.

Letter to the Editor

Letter insults Canadian peacekeepers

To the editor,

Ms. Stoecklin, I have read your rather long and rambling Letter to the Editor of November 11, 2008 and while I do not profess to either know or understand the majority of what you wrote, I do feel very qualified to respond to your comments regarding Haiti and Canada's involvement in that country.

In 1997, I was the UN's Medical Administrator for the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti (UNTMIH).

My duties there included ensuring the medical well-being of all UN personnel in the country as well as coordinating the Humanitarian Assistance efforts to the many Haitians desperately in need of any aid that we could give them.

As well, since my return to Canada, I have followed events in that country with keen interest.

During my long stay in that country, I NEVER witnessed or heard of ANY human rights abuses being perpetrated by our peacekeepers and I was in a position to know.

Secondly, you may not be aware of this but our own Governor General, Michelle Jean, is of Haitian descent and to even think that Canadian government would ever attempt to influence another sovereign nation's internal politics is

simply asinine.

Your completely unfounded and unsupported assertion that "Canada is carrying out a murderous and destructive foreign policy in Haiti" is irresponsible and frankly insulting to both our government and the many professional peacekeepers, including myself, who worked tirelessly and without respite, to aid all Haitians in that strife-ridden country.

I am not interested in what you have gleaned off the Web or read and now espouse as your own. Freedom of speech does NOT mean freedom to speak irresponsibly.

You must take responsibility for your comments made in the public domain and I strongly encourage you to get your facts well and truly straight before you attempt this kind of tabloid sensationalism in the future.

I was there in Haiti and you were not.

As a result, I believe that you owe me and every other peacekeeper whom you have slandered in your recent letter an apology and I look forward to you doing this publicly in this newspaper.

**Ian Sweet
Major
Canadian Forces
Medical Service (retired)
United Nations
Transition Mission
in Haiti**



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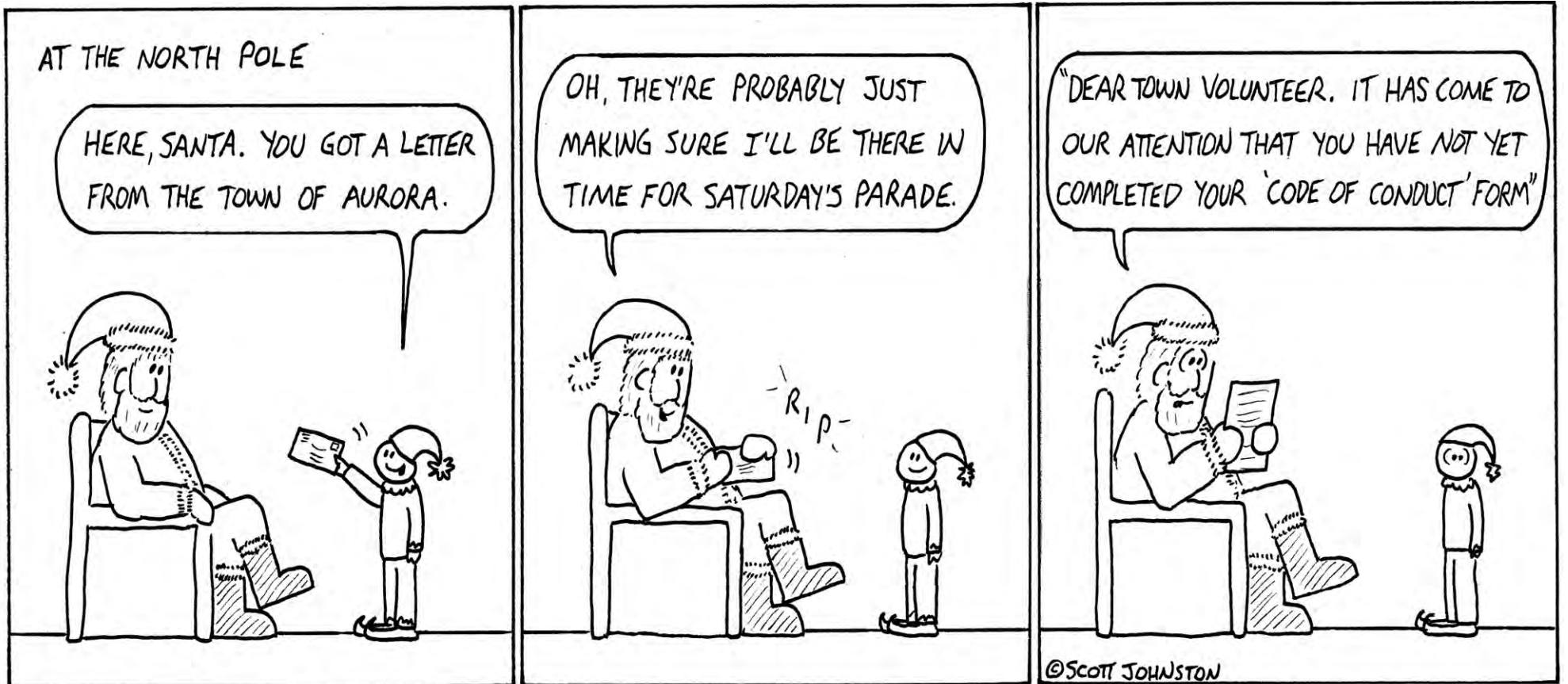
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

Last weekend I came home from my weekly hockey game (minus four) and saw my wife and son filling a shoebox with various small toys, pencil crayons, a small ball and a pair of boys' socks.

I asked them what they were up to.

My son proudly exclaimed that they were making a gift box to send to a boy in another part of the world.

My wife then told me that one of her friends at the gym had become part of a volunteer group, called Samaritan's Purse International Relief, which operates Operation Christmas Child.

I then looked at the brochure that had been given to Julie.

The title on the inside of the brochure says, "A simple gift opens doors".

The pamphlet goes on to state "a shoebox gift opens the door for Samaritan's Purse to demonstrate Jesus' love by offering communities emergency relief, safe drinking water, education, health care, and more."

The booklet also provides an example of a family that has been assisted:

"Sisters Anita, age 7, and Jennifer, 11, Garcia have experienced pain in their young lives. Their mother deserted the family, leaving their father, Enrique, to care for them alone.

"Not long ago, however, the sisters experienced

incredible joy when they opened Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts packed by caring Canadians."

"It makes me happy," Anita said. "I'm going to show the box to my father!"

Running down the pot-holed road to the Garcia home with Jennifer right behind, Anita carried her precious gift to her father.

"Papa, look at the soap!" she said.

"I love the gifts," Jennifer added, holding the letter and pictures from the family that packed her shoe box.

Seeing the joy on his daughters' faces, Enrique felt the power of these simple gifts.

"You don't know how much it means to me," he said, tears filling his eyes, "because I do my best to take care of the children. Thank you."

The idea is simple enough.

You get a shoebox. You determine whether your gift will be for a boy or girl, and the child's age category; 2-4 years; 5-9 years and 10-14 years.

You then use the guidelines provided to "ensure that the box is filled with a well-balanced variety of quality items that will bring joy to a child."

The gift ideas include:

School supplies: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or pencil crayons, writing pads.

Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos,

yo-yos.

Hygiene items: toothbrush, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb.

Other: T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches.

You are asked not to include things like toothpaste (due to customs regulations), food, or items that can scare or harm a child like knives, war-related toys, toy guns, etc.

You are also asked to donate seven dollars or more for each shoebox to help cover project costs - including shipping - and expand assistance to children and their communities.

2008 National Collection Week for this program is November 24 through the 29th. The closest drop-off location is at Valley View Alliance Church at 800 Davis Drive in Newmarket. Their phone number is 905-830-4454.

You can also visit www.samaritanspurse.ca to download the pamphlet and learn more about this worthwhile program.

The inside fold of the brochure said it best:

"Open a door by touching a child's heart. Pack a shoebox".

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Inside Aurora

By Scott Johnston

As we all know, there are a lot of new houses going up in town, as Aurora is slowly paved over to the 404.

One of the disappointing aspects of this progress, which I fully realize is both necessary and inevitable, is that it comes at the expense of what little green space we have left in town.

And it all starts innocently with a sign in a field.

You know the ones, the white zoning change notices with the black printing.

They're often placed a strategically unreadable distance from the road, and contain lettering so small that you have to absorb the contents a word at a time each time you pass by in the car.

This will require about 237 trips, by which point you'll have either forgotten what it said at the beginning, and have to start reading it all over again, or you'll simply be able to look at the finished buildings, which will have been constructed by then.

But to save you the trouble of reading the sign, the gist of it will be that an application is in to change the zoning of this pleasant green space from "open agricultural", to one step removed from "congested concrete".

Once the town approves the development, and no matter what is proposed there apparently is no other option than approval, the next thing to go up will be the flashy, full colour "Coming Soon" sign.

These are a wonder in creativity.

First off, the development is always called something like Coachlane Estates, or Lakeview Heath. Some soothing name that makes you think of a tranquil oasis, with refined neighbours dripping with culture, who all graduated at the top of the class in Finishing School.

The mental picture afforded by the development's name is supported by the accompanying artist's rendering, which shows a gleaming 5,000 square foot house, with every conceivable upgrade, including finishes apparently pilfered directly from Martha Stewart's home when she wasn't looking.

The house itself is surrounded by more green space than Sheppard's Bush, and has trees so mature that they look like they were planted by Robert Machell himself, when our first settler moved to Aurora in 1804.

Ironically, all the green coloring on the sign contradicts the predominantly brown hues that will accompany the first phase of construction, when the bulldozers scrape off all that pesky existing vegetation.

But you don't see that yet. For now, you can look from the artist's rendering to the field, and let your imagination soar.

To further entice new homeowners, at the bottom of the sign will be a great tagline, like "walk with nature",

Signs of progress

or "enjoy the wildlife".

And while the sketch may allow you to envision yourself sipping coffee on the veranda, while deer drink only yards away from your private trout pond, remember that most of the area's original wildlife will have been bulldozed out in Phase 1.

Any animals that are left will find the completed houses packed in so tightly that they would have to exhale completely in order to be thin enough to pass between them.

And even if they were able to edge their way to the backyard, they'd find it so small that there would barely be enough room to turn around again.

If anyone reading the sign hasn't been captivated quite yet, there will be one final enticement.

Plastered over a lower corner will be a warning like; "Hurry - only one left".

And actually, this is the most true-to-life part of the "Coming Soon" sign, because there probably is only one available.

But by this time you will see a brand new white rezoning sign newly installed in the adjacent field.

So don't worry; more homes are on the way.

Feel free to e-mail Scott at:
machellscorners@gmail.com



Bouquets &

BRICKBATS By DICK ILLINGWORTH

BOUQUETS to former Councillor Grace Marsh for her letter to The Auroran regarding council's Code of Conduct and its application to citizen members serving on council advisory committees, as she hit the nail on the head. It should be compulsory reading for councillors.

BOUQUETS to Cora Hillis and Tim Steepe of Captain George's Fish & Chips (located beside the TD Bank at the corner of Yonge and Wellington Streets) who served up 17 free fish & chip dinners to Legion veterans on Remembrance Day.

BRICKBATS to the Hudson Bay security officer who evicted an 85-year-old Legionnaire who was offering poppies for Remembrance Day at the firm's office tower at Yonge and Bloor Streets in Toronto. The firm later apologized with a \$1,500 cheque.

BOUQUETS to the Neal Brothers of Aurora who started their crouton business in their mother's kitchen 20 years ago and built it into a successful business and have just added three new crouton varieties now available in grocery stores and supermarkets across Canada.

BRICKBATS to Toronto Council for requiring taxpayers to shell out more than \$1 million to fund city councillors' office budgets so far this year including \$1,190 by Scarborough Councillor Glenn de Baeremaeker for popcorn machine rentals and \$174 to rent a beaver costume.

BOUQUETS and many thanks to the kind person who lugs up Poor Richard's garbage cans from the curb to their storage spot every garbage day. It's much appreciated!

BRICKBATS to Toronto Council for charging \$26,000 in taxes to Canadian actor R. H. Thomson on the London part of his 1914-1918 vigil light show which honours the names of the 68,000 Canadians killed defending Britain. How soon some people forget!

BOUQUETS to York Region on being awarded the 2008 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

BRICKBATS to federal politicians for once again failing to bring the RCMP and CSIS under control after an inquiry found their indirect actions caused three Canadians to be imprisoned and tortured in Syria. A repeat of the Mahar Arar case!

BOUQUETS to Sun Media and the CBC for going to the Supreme Court of Canada and successfully arguing that the identity of three Toronto Police officers be named after the Toronto Police Association had appealed for the identity of three officers to be kept sealed.

BRICKBATS to Ontario's equal pay legislation which has done little to close the gap between men and women doing similar work as a recent study reveals that for every dollar a male employee earns, a woman takes home 71 cents. Why?

BOUQUETS to GO Transit in partnership with the Mikey Network for installing approximately 100 public access defibrillators on GO Trains and stations. The Mikey Network has two goals; to place MIKEYs in as many public places as possible and to educate the public about heart-healthy living. Aurora received some MIKEYs at the Senior Centre a couple of years ago.

BRICKBATS to whoever is responsible for controlling the interest rates on credit cards as they have much higher rates of interest than other loans. Why?

BOUQUETS to York Region on being named one of the top companies to work for in the GTA based on pay, vacations and health benefits as well as other less tangible attributes for the third straight year.

Letters to the Editor

Council bending over to please every citizen

To the editor,

Back in October, newspaper coverage of "train whistle blowing" before our "beloved" Aurora Town Council grabbed my attention.

On October 25th, I e-mailed the mayor and all council members the following:

"Dear Aurora Town Council,

It was with great dismay that I read that your motley crew are again procrastinating on making a decision and costing the taxpayers more money with your indecisiveness.

You may remember that I attended a council meeting in May to address the need for improvements to be made at the Yonge/Wellington intersection.

At that May meeting, I "implored" you as a council to MAKE A DECISION rather than "pass the buck".

I believed that after my presentation, from the follow up discussions and e-mails from various council members, that you had taken what I said to heart and it appeared that you were actually going to do something about it.

That was then. Now, you're back to your old ways, once again unable to make a decision

on your own.

"Let's do another study! The taxpayers don't care about what we do or how much money we throw away anyway!"

Well, you're wrong on both counts.

Where or who are these people who are complaining to council about train whistles being blown? I'd be willing to bet that they are relatively new residents to Our Town.

Why is it that you, as a council, must bend over backwards to please anyone who comes before you with some sort of frivolous complaint?

Why can't you, as an elected body, stand up to some of these groups and tell them you're not going to waste time or money on something that is as frivolous as "whistle blowing"?

I have lived in Aurora for more than 50 years, a good lot longer than most of you on council.

As far as I can remember, the train line that dissects Aurora has been there for a lot longer than that!

There haven't been any complaints before. Why is it that now, these trains blowing whistles is such a big issue?

What does it take for you to tell these grass roots groups to take a hike?

I can remember more

than a couple incidents of deaths at level crossings (1977 at Centre St...more recently a mother and daughter on Engelhart Drive, years ago, a 14-year-old at the subway who I personally knew, and so on...)

If the whistles are silenced by you, there WILL be many more of these incidents and more than probably law suits as well.

How can you, Mayor Morris, in all good conscience, say something to the effect of "safety is the most important thing" and then even consider to ban whistle blowing?

You, as elected representatives of the Town of Aurora, are NOT doing your jobs!

Wasteful spending on idiotic proposals is just another example of this.

Maybe what we need to shake you to your senses (and heaven forbid should this ever happen) is to have one of your loved ones, or the loved ones of a moaning citizen, mowed down by a couple hundred thousand tons of screaming metal while NOT blowing the whistle.

Do you think that might change one's mind on the topic?"

Number of council members who responded...four, five if you include the mayor's response.

Where are the other four elected representatives?

Not caring I guess.

Bob McRoberts, our deputy mayor, was first to respond the same day as the original e-mail.

Al Wilson responded the following day and the next day I heard from Ev Buck. Kudos go out to these council members.

Mayor Morris did acknowledge my e-mail, but said that she had been ill and would address my e-

mail concerns in days to come.

I guess those days are still a coming because she's also MIA.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner got back to me on November 3rd, nine days after the original e-mail, saying that she "spoke in great detail with the mayor" regarding my concerns and she thought it best to leave that communications aspect to the mayor.

We, as taxpayers, pay your salary, Mayor Morris, so the least you could do is respond to a valid citizen concern.

It's really too bad that the taxpayers don't have some sort of evaluation process of their Council. Pay Per Performance comes to mind.

I gave the councillors ample time to respond with their thoughts about my concerns of them being "wishy washy", indecisive and frivolously wasting taxpayers' monies.

I honestly (foolishly) thought that I'd have a better response than what I got.

It's painfully obvious to this individual that Aurora's Town Council does NOT have the fortitude to stand up to anyone who comes before them. (ie. traffic calming, whistle blowing, etc.)

It is really too bad that we have to endure another couple of years of this poor leadership and "closed door" politics when we were all promised "open and transparent government". Maybe the council should hire an overly expensive consultant group to do a study on whether or not the people of Aurora are happy with their current council.

They may not like the results.

Mark Holmes
Aurora

Town should provide maps of street "maze"

To the editor,

The so-called "traffic" calming devices in the north-east section of Aurora are anything but calming to the perplexed motorist.

They should more correctly be called "traffic stalling" or "traffic prohibiting".

Leaving Yonge Street on certain streets and travelling a few blocks, the motorist is then directed right back down to Yonge Street.

I feel sorry for people

trying to make deliveries.

The least the Town of Aurora could do is to provide a map of the maze, showing which of the many streets that are blocked off, and where, and thus giving the bewildered motorist a slightly better chance of reaching a destination.

Certain residents of the area may be delighted with this idiotic plan, but that may not be the impression of the rest of Aurora.

Florence Murray
Aurora

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Letters to the Editor

Aurora Legion: consider joining

To the editor,

As a 30-year member of the Legion, I have always taken the time to be part of Remembrance Day to remember all of those who gave their lives to let you be free today.

I also enjoy speaking with some of the veterans who came home after the war knowing that they have gone through so much.

I enjoy being able to get out and sell poppies on behalf of the the veterans and members.

The great thing about doing this is that I always come away feeling good about those people who stop to buy the poppies.

So many people, young and old, come by to say "Thank you" to the vets for all they have done and are

doing.

People already wearing poppies came by and actually gave more money.

It is especially heart warming to see young children asking their parents if they can buy a poppy and the smile on their faces when the parent pins it on their jacket.

I am telling you this to let you know that there is a lot of support for the Legion but we can always use more.

As an associate member you can use any Legion across Canada for meals or refreshments.

As a Legion member you will always have a place to play darts, pool, or take part in the many activities that are part of every Legion.

The Legion also becomes a place to meet with friends and make new

friends.

I ask you to drop into the Aurora Legion on Industrial Parkway North and to check out joining and becoming part of a great group of people.

To me, our Legion is one of the best that I have visited across Canada.

Please take the time to visit and hopefully join.

The roast beef lunch on Friday is amazing and is only \$8.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

People working together help get Arboretum trees

To the editor,

The Aurora Community Arboretum is young and needs many more trees to meet the goal of 30,000 within the current ten year plan.

Big trees are expensive, however ingenuity, cooperation and patience can offer ways to get more trees for less cost.

In a wonderful example of working together for the betterment of Aurora, a number of tiny trees are being grown to add to the collection.

This was made possible first by David Tomlinson who collected the seeds and planted them.

When they're little they need protection from hungry mice and rabbits to survive an Ontario winter. They need a cold frame, with fine wire mesh.

The Arboretum put the word out, and Aurora responded.

Home Depot donated the

lumber to make six frames.

Then the woodworking team at the Aurora Seniors Association took over and assembled the frames, and Gordon Barnes of the Arboretum stapled the wire mesh in place.

The Arboretum would like to thank David Tomlinson, Home Depot and the woodworking wizards of the Seniors Workshop (Ron Coe, Jack Hirst, and Bill Moore).

Great support of a worthy cause.

Now the baby trees are snug and protected for the winter.

They'll need special care for the next few years, but then will be a wonderful addition to the Arboretum for the enjoyment of all Aurorans.

John Clement
Board Member,
Aurora Community
Arboretum

Vigil was tastefully arranged: reader

To the editor,

On Saturday, November 8, while traveling south on Yonge Street, I saw a glow coming from the Cenotaph.

It was just past 7.15 p.m. and darkness had set in.

My husband and I were compelled to stop.

We were greeted by a Cadet Instructor, who offered to help us light a candle and have it placed along the path.

Ninety-nine pre-set and lit red candles were glowing in remembrance our country's heroes and adorned the path to the Cenotaph and beyond.

Three young Army Cadets

were standing vigil at the Cenotaph.

There, young people had volunteered to stand vigil in one hour shifts until 7.30 a.m. Sunday morning - to honour those who are, and have, served our country.

This vigil was so tastefully and thoughtfully arranged.

What an honour to be asked to be included in their vigil.

Thank you to the Army Cadets, their supporters, instructors and families for envisioning such a wonderful tribute.

Jo-anne Spitzer
Aurora

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November 14, 2008

A Letter from the Mayor

This is a letter to the residents of the Town of Aurora in response to the editorial column in the Thursday, November 13, 2008 Banner newspaper entitled "Aurora needs to reassure its taxpayers".

The Council for the Town of Aurora is entrusted with ensuring that the public interest is maintained. Council takes all of its purchasing and spending decisions very seriously.

It has recently been reported by Council that in 2007 certain expenditures were processed by Town staff without the requisite approval of Council having been obtained. These expenditures were made to rectify certain deficiencies that had been discovered at the new Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex. The expenditures were made for a valid and proper purpose. However, the expenditures were not completed in compliance with the Town's procedures regarding the expenditure of municipal funds notwithstanding that adequate procedures were in place regarding the procurement of goods and services by and for the Town.

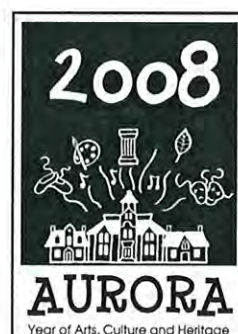
In this particular instance, the payment of Town funds was improperly processed by Town staff without Council having been properly advised or informed. Council retained external legal counsel to investigate and report on the matter and Council promptly and diligently addressed the contravention with senior Town staff. Council also implemented a new reporting structure for its legal department whereby the solicitors will now report directly to Council, except for administrative matters.

In addition, Council has had its auditors report on the Town's procurement practices and policies and, in all respects, there has been no indication that the Town's procurement system is in any way ineffective or insufficient. Changes have also been made to the role and authority of the Chief Administrative Officer with respect to matters involving senior management. Striving to always be open and transparent, Council chose to pro-actively report the matter to the public even though it was legislatively entitled to deal with it in a closed meeting.

I can assure the taxpayers of our Town that Council and staff will continue to work very hard together to ensure that effective policies are in place to maintain accountability in the expenditure of all public funds, regardless of the amount involved. The Town of Aurora remains financially, ethically and socially responsible and accountable to all of its taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Phyllis M. Morris
Mayor



Letters to the Editor

Group responsible for 9/11, she says

To the editor,

I now will briefly write about the New World Order and the Bilderberg Group.

Again, Canadians (and the world) are going to be shocked to learn about the workings of this secret society.

They are the reason our

civilization has gone down the path of destruction and death rather than love and life.

It has affected our world since the early days of the Egyptians and manipulated many of the world's major events.

Already millions of Canadians do not support our war effort.

But what if the official story of 9/11 was a lie? What if 9/11 as the evidence now suggests, was an inside job?

How many of us would then support the "War on Terror". It is the NWO who is behind 9/11.

There exists solid evidence that directly contradicts the official narrative of 9/11.

They have managed to remain secretive by controlling the media and suppressing important news, information and opinions which show the other side.

They have used propaganda throughout every institution of our society and have contorted important historical facts in our education to justify their

existence and develop the 'Military Industrial Complex'.

The Aurora Public Library has excellent movies supporting my statements: "War Made Easy", "Control Room", and "Why We Fight".

The movie 9/11 Mysteries is also shocking.

To conclude, I just wish to say, I am not here to blame anyone for the past.

I understand people are busy trying to stay afloat in life, however we cannot afford to be innocent any longer.

I ask YOU what will you say in the future when the children ask "Why didn't you do something?"

I can only say I am trying. If you support me please display a heart in your front window.

If you feel passionate about what I write, please put on your lawns or neighbourhoods, signs of your message of Peace or healing.

I would love to see Canada's communities covered in hearts saying "We Care".

I see Canada as leading the way to peace and justice.

I am fully awake.

Any other fully awake Canadians of conscience can reach me at heidihoheidihi@hotmail.com and share their concerns of our systemically corrupt government.

We will make a difference together. Any hate mail will be recorded.

Heidi G.A. Stoecklin
Aurora

Dream Team needs support

To the editor,

The Aurora Christmas Dream is going strong in Aurora!

When driving by Mary's (Jonathan's Restaurant) you will see the beautiful colourful banners created by our wonderful Business Person of the Year - Brian North from Ellis Studios - especially in support of the Christmas Dream.

At a time when we are all suffering from a bit of a financial meltdown (re savings, RRSPs) it's a great surprise to me our local organizations, businesses

and citizens still care about their less fortunate neighbours.

In life it's so true, when we think we are down - take a look around and suddenly we realize how lucky we really are!

Thanks to the continued support of the Aurora Rotary Club we are assured of sufficient funds to provide the true Spirit of Christmas in hosting at least 120 guests on Christmas Day.

Now our concerns: the 2008 Aurora Christmas Dream are to provide sufficient funds for food and

necessities of life offered by our three outreach organizations - The Salvation Army, The Aurora Food Pantry and the Welcoming Arms Ministry into the holidays and beyond as we did last year.

Our guests are by invitation only - selected by our three outreach organizations to ensure we reach those who really need our support and love on that special day.

I am writing to the Editor of The Auroran and to all Aurorans to ask you to remember those in need in

our Town at Christmas.

There is no day or time that seems more bleak than on Christmas Day itself when you have no one, you are alone, no family, no money or just running on a patch of difficult times.

We appreciate the amazing community support the Aurora Christmas Dream has enjoyed and thank you for your assistance in making the Dream a reality.

All Aurorans and friends are invited to come out to Jonathan's Restaurant this Thursday night at 7 p.m. to help us and the Rotary Club of Aurora to the Spirit of Christmas and community support and cheer to those in need at Christmas.

Thank you, Aurora

Sher St. Kitts
Aurora Dream Team

The Auroran deserves apology, reader says

To the editor,

In regard to the evidently ill-informed letter by Mr. Vaughn Dues, which appeared in last week's edition of The Auroran, I am left wondering if he and I read the same Auroran news story in regard to Jonathan's Restaurant.

To accuse The Auroran

of taking a "cheap shot at news" raises the question in my mind as to what kind of shot Mr. Dues himself was attempting.

It was very clear to me - and surely to other readers - that The Auroran news item was intended to support the local restaurant by clarifying that it was not the "Johnathan's"

mentioned in a radio news report.

Despite the difference in spelling, when spoken aloud such as over the radio or on television, the two names sound identical.

In fact the English language is full of similar examples, making it important for news media to get there...uh...they're...uh... their facts straight.

Nor, apparently, did the radio station give the location of the restaurant, leading some to believe that report referred to the popular local eatery.

The coincidence was unfortunate but it did happen.

How anyone can hold Aurora's community newspaper responsible in any way is beyond my understanding.

In my humble opinion it is The Auroran which is due an apology.

Surely that would be just dues.

Bob Cooke
Orillia
(formerly of Aurora)

Support misplaced

To the editor,

Open letter to Stephen Somerville and Al Wilson.

Two words prove that your

support of limiting political terms is misplaced - Hazel McCallion.

Gordon Barnes
Aurora

Al Wilson responds

To the editor,

Gord, thanks for your insight; however I would add two more words: George Bush!

Thank heavens for term limitations!

Al Wilson
Aurora

Interactive play was lots of fun

To the editor,

I want to congratulate Marquee Theatre Productions on their fundraising murder mystery theatre held recently.

The play was interactive and fun!

The meal was cooked by the theatre members and was delicious!

The silent auction items were fantastic and all this was followed by a dance.

Thanks again for a great evening.

I can't wait for your

spring fundraiser.

Heather Masters
Aurora

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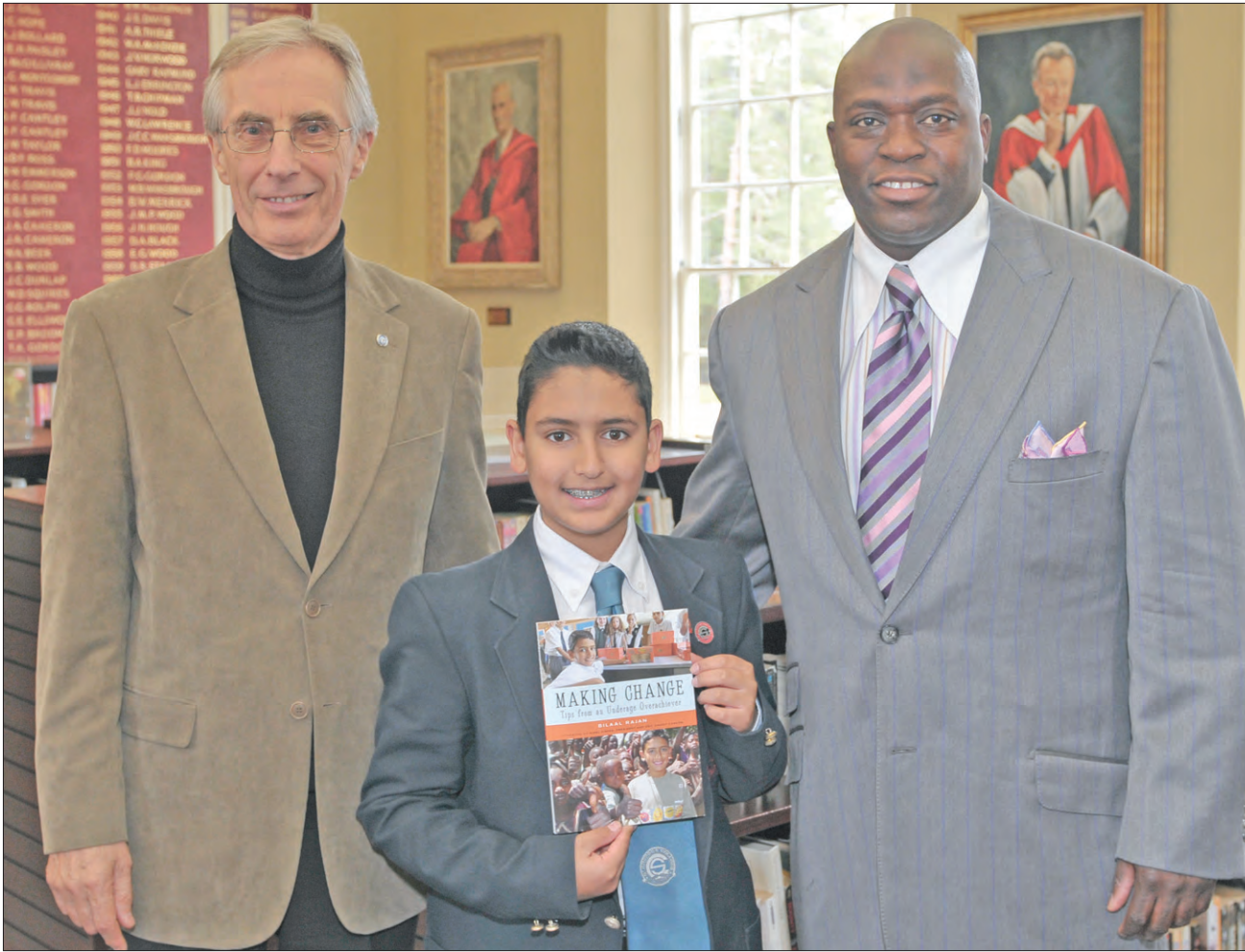
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Nigel Fisher, President & CEO of UNICEF Canada, left, Bilal Rajan, Grade 8 student at St. Andrew's College and Farley Flex, Canadian Idol Judge and National Ambassador for UNICEF Canada at Bilal's book launch last week at St. Andrew's College. Bilal's first book, "Making Change: Tips from an Underage Overachiever", is a how to book for children interested in making change and fundraising for a cause or charity they believe in. A Child Ambassador for UNICEF Canada since 2005, Bilal is also one of Canada's "Top 20 Under 20" Award recipients for 2008 and has been involved in fundraising for children in need around the world for eight years.

Student launches first book

St. Andrew's College Grade 8 student and UNICEF Canada Ambassador Bilal Rajan is only 12 years old, but his new book "Making Change: Tips from an Underage Overachiever" (160 pages, Orca Book Publishers) shows he is as accomplished a writer as he is a fundraiser and children's rights activist.

St. Andrew's hosted the official launch of Bilal's book last Wednesday in the Memorial Chapel on the school's Aurora campus.

In front of an audience of more than 300 students, teachers and invited guests, the young author spoke about his time raising millions of dollars for children's charities and increasing awareness about the challenges faced by youth all over the world.

"From an early age," said Rajan, "I could see that millions of other young people around the world didn't have it so good. I realized two specific things: that I had to get involved and make a difference, and that I would need a lot of help in order to make that change."

Rajan addressed the audience for 10 minutes - without notes - and received a 45-second standing ovation.

Also present were Richmond Hill MPP Reza Moridi and Rajan's family. Rajan's home is in Richmond Hill.

"He wants to make such a difference," said his mother Shamim Rajan, "We just encouraged him to be the best at what he loves doing. Other than that, he's a regular 12-year-old boy who loves sports, reading and hanging out with friends."

Most regular 12-year-old boys, however, haven't travelled to Africa to build a school

for AIDS orphans, or been selected as a recipient of Canada's 2008 Top 20 Under 20 Award.

He also dreams of being the first astronaut to land on Mars and a neurosurgeon.

Also speaking were President & CEO of UNICEF Canada, Nigel Fisher; and Farley Flex, Canadian Idol Judge and National UNICEF Canada Ambassador.

The objective of the book is to inspire one million children to take action and create a more peaceful, caring world during their lifetimes.

"I want kids to find their passion, get involved and know that they can do amazing things and make a difference in the lives of others," he said.

"I have never in my 30 years of teaching, taught a student who was so driven and determined to improve the world he lives in," said Mike Hanson, St. Andrew's Director of the Middle School. "He truly leads by example and is the youngest student in the history of St. Andrew's to endow an award at Prize Day - the Middle School Hands for Help Community Service Award."

For Bilal, it all started when he was only four years old and decided to sell clementines door-to-door to raise money for victims of the 2001 earthquake in Gujarat,

India.

Since then, he has raised more than \$5 million for various causes, and in March, 2005, was chosen to be an official Child Ambassador for UNICEF Canada.

In "Making Change", Bilal not only tells the ongoing story of these achievements in transforming lives, but also delivers great advice on how anyone can get involved.

His "Eight Principles to Maximize Your True Potential," written about in the second half of his book, were developed from self-help and motivational workshops he gave last summer to children in Africa.

The book has received high praise.

Craig Kielburger, Founder and Chair of Free the Children, said, "We often refer to young people as 'the leaders of tomorrow,' but more and more, the youth of the world are showing us they can truly be leaders of today. Making Change reminds us that there's no need to wait."

Senator Romeo Dallaire said "Making Change is a new 'hands-on' book full of very useful ways to achieve personal and organizational goals. The fact that Bilal has been able to produce a piece of work with such clarity and discipline of mind is just outstanding."

Proceeds from the book

will go to UNICEF and other programs that benefit children around the world.

More information on the book can be found on its website at www.makingchangenow.com.



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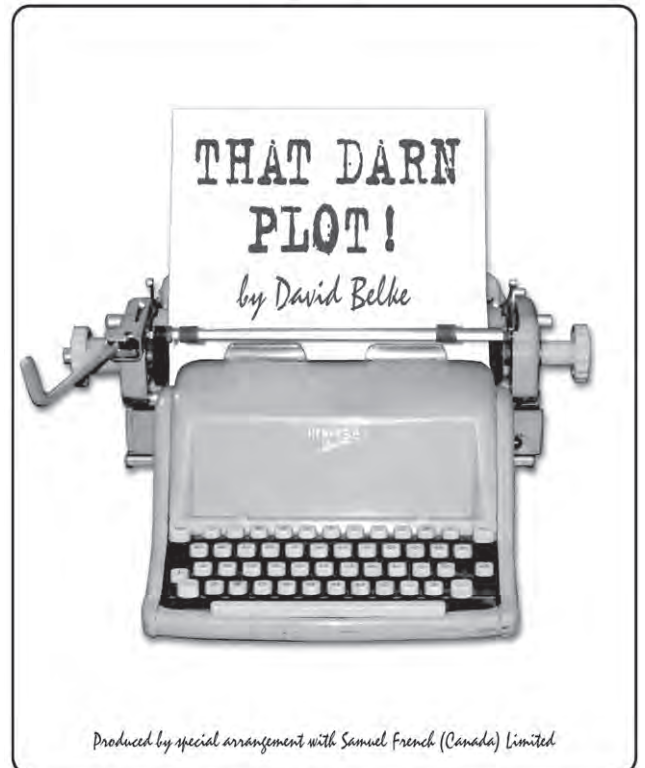
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Point of Viewing

by Todd McGinnis

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THE AURORAN

SPORTS

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Week of November 18, 2008

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Tigers lose a home game

The Aurora Tigers split a pair of divisional crossover games on the weekend, losing a rare home game to the Mackinnon Division's Vaughan Vipers 6-3 Friday night but bouncing back to thump the Milton Icehawks 8-3 in Aurora Sunday afternoon.

Friday's defeat to Vaughan saw the Tigers give up three powerplay goals plus a shorthanded marker, while getting outshot for one of the rare times this season 42-32.

Friday was the first time Aurora had seen the team from Vaughan...and conversely, the team from Milton as well.

The two teams traded goals in the first period with Vaughan's Brandon Beadow opening the scoring at 11.23 on the powerplay and Aurora's Brandon Happeney replying three minutes later.

Following an early Viper penalty in the second, the Tigers had an opportunity to take the lead but Vaughan's Doug Clarkson turned the tables on Aurora, scoring shorthanded to give the Vipers a 2-1 lead.

Mark Schiraldi padded the lead to 3-1 ten minutes later, but Tiger captain Dominic Monardo scored late in the period to make the score 3-2 after two.

Vaughan took control of the hockey game with a pair of power play markers early in the 3rd period. Clarkson's second goal of the game at 3.21 and Daniel Morello's goal at 4.57 made the score 5-2. Aurora's red hot Michael Sardella shortened the deficit to two with a goal at 10.31, but Vaughan's Dorian Peca closed out the scoring with only one second remaining to make it a 6-3 final.

On Sunday afternoon the Tigers and visiting Icehawks battled through a frantic first period that resembled pond hockey as the two teams racked up a total of seven goals in just over nine minutes.

Michael Sardella started the scoring at 6.05 of the first, but Milton goals by Curtis Renaud and Mac Whalen gave the Icehawks a brief 2-1 lead.

Aurora's Dominic Monardo sped past the Milton defence just nine seconds later to tie the score at two.

Jeff Lynch once again gave Milton a brief lead at 11.05, but an inspired effort by Aurora's Nick Vangog who outworked two Icehawks and buried a perfect shot high glove side tied the score 3-3.

Aurora's Brandon Happeney scored what would be the eventual game winner at 15.26 of the first to make the score 4-3.

In the 2nd period Aurora pulled away, led by their top line of Michael Sardella, Dominic Monardo and David Morley.

Monardo's second goal of the game came at 11.46 plus Sardella's second and third of the game gave the Tigers a 7-3 lead after 40 minutes of play.

Nick Vangog's second of the game was the only goal scored in the third period to make the final 8-3 for Aurora.

The Tigers have 18 wins in 22 games played, good for third place in the hotly contested Phillips Division, three points behind first place Couchiching, although Aurora still has a game in hand.

The Tigers next see action Wednesday night at the Hershey Centre in

Mississauga against The Upper Canada Hockey Club.

Their next home game is Friday night at the Community Centre when they host North York.

Game time is 7.30 p.m.

Longtime Tigers volunteer Sandy "Sammy" Skillins was honoured before Sunday's game in appreciation of 40 years service. She's the one who sells the tickets to Tiger home games.

Meanwhile, former coach Jerome Dupont won his first game as coach of the Gatineau Olympiques on Saturday, 3-2 over Montreal.

VAUGHAN 6 AURORA 3

First Period

V - Brandon Beadow (Schiraldi, Campbell) PP 11.23

A - Brandon Happeney (Van Natter, Evans) PP 14.37

Second Period

V - Doug Clarkson (Kearns, Christiani) SH 2.06

V - Mark Schiraldi (De Fulviis, Campbell) 13.13

A - Dominic Monardo (Vanderlugt, Sardella) 17.13

Third Period

V - Doug Clarkson (Fleishman, Beadow) PP 3.21

V - Mike Hayward (Campbell, Krznic) PP 4.57

A - Michael Sardella (Evans, Jordan Smith) PP 10.31

V - Dorian Peca (unassisted) 19.59

AURORA 8 MILTON 3

First Period

A - Michael Sardella (Morley, Monardo) 6.05

M - Curtis Renaud (Lynch, Hawkrigg) 8.38

M - Mac Whalen (Periera, Basso) PP 9.21

A - Dominic Monardo (Jordan Smith, Vanderlugt) SH 9.30

M - Jeff Lynch (Shumate, Ell) 11.05

A - Nick Vangog (Mooney, Jordan Smith) 11.40

A - Brandon Happeney (Vangog, Mooney) 15.26

Second Period

A - Dominic Monardo (Vanderlugt, Morley) 11.46

A - Michael Sardella (Van Natter) PP 15.16

A - Michael Sardella (Monardo, Evans) PP 18.27

Third Period

A - Nick Vangog (Virgoe, Mooney) 5.22

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Monday Night Hockey Standings

| TEAM | W | L | T | GF | GA | PTS |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Highland Chev-Cad | 5 | 3 | 1 | 38 | 28 | 11 |
| Tom & Jerry's | 5 | 3 | 0 | 38 | 28 | 10 |
| Baldwin's | 5 | 3 | 0 | 36 | 28 | 10 |
| FPL Aggregates | 5 | 3 | 0 | 33 | 29 | 10 |
| Masterclean Contracting | 4 | 4 | 0 | 28 | 35 | 8 |
| Law Insurance Brokers | 3 | 5 | 0 | 25 | 34 | 6 |
| Rec Cycle N' Sports | 3 | 5 | 0 | 23 | 30 | 6 |
| Priestly Demolition | 1 | 6 | 1 | 23 | 36 | 3 |

Game results

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------|---|
| Highlands Chev | 2 | Baldwin's | 4 |
| Priestly Demoliton | 2 | Masterclean | 2 |

| | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------|---|
| FPL Aggregates | 4 | Rec Sports | 2 |
| Tom & Jerry's | 2 | Law Insurance | 0 |

Player Standings

| TEAM | G | A | Pts. |
|------------------------------|----|---|------|
| Tom Hussey Masterclean | 8 | 7 | 15 |
| Jody Matthews Highland's | 6 | 9 | 15 |
| John Archibauld Highland's | 10 | 2 | 12 |
| Todd Richardson FPL | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| Brad McMillan Baldwins | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| Mike O'Conner Baldwins | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Vince Greco Tom & Jerry's | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Mark Swirla Priestly | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Darren Yaremko Tom & Jerry's | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Dave Caverley FPL | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Steve Kavanah Baldwins | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| Ken Rumble Highland's | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| Mark Inglis Law Insurance | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| Rob Blakely Masterclean | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Charlie Steenhorst FPL | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Scott Crabbe Highland's | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Steven MacDonald Highland's | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Joel Reeves Tom & Jerry's | 2 | 6 | 8 |

Selkies make a big splash at invitational

The Aurora Selkies Swim Club had major success recently at the Dominion Fall Invitational Swim Meet in Newmarket.

The young swimmers did exceptionally well as the club sent its largest contingent ever, 20 swimmers and came away with several unexpected medals for first, second and third places.

The results are as follows:

Girls 10 & under. 25 metre Freestyle: 1st Georgia McClelland 19.77 sec.; 2nd Christina Smid 20.02 sec.

25 metre Butterfly: 1st Leanna Smid 22.58 sec.; 2nd Christina Smid 25.46 sec.; 3rd Georgia McClelland 26.68 sec.

25 metre Breaststroke: 1st Megan Hughes 26.55

sec.; 2nd Madison Jakubas 28.72 sec.

25 metre Backstroke: 1st Megan Hughes 21.41 sec.; 2nd Georgia McClelland 22.14 sec.

50 metre Backstroke: 3rd Leanne Smid 44.89 sec.

100 metre I/M: 1st Leanna Smid 1m, 42.81 sec.

Boys 10 & under. 25 metre Freestyle 1st Myko Smid 20.71 sec.

25 metre Butterfly: Myko Smid 24.73 sec.

Girls 11 & under. 50 metre Breaststroke: 1st Kyra Lansing 45.50 sec.

Boys 11 & under. 50 metre Breaststroke: 3rd Connor Malbeuf, 49.49 sec.

Girls 13 & under: 50 metre Breaststroke: 1st Madelene Lauris 47.70 sec.

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Minor Atoms take two wins in three games

The Minor Atom A Tigers came up with a pair of wins in three games last week.

Tuesday, they edged the East Gwillimbury Eagles 3-2, on goals from Jordan Torres, Joel Woodcock and Kyle Rice.

Tigers were looking to avenge their most recent loss to these same Eagles last weekend, however midway through the first period the Eagles continued from their past domination with the opening goal.

With the period winding down, the Tigers began to apply pressure and as the first period ends the Tigers are beginning to take control of the game.

Early in the second period, Aurora continued the pressure and were rewarded when

Jacob Cann found an open Eric McGhie and McGhie drew the Eagles' defender towards him.

As the space opened, McGhie passed off to Torres who made no mistake finding the back of the net.

Five minutes later the Tigers were at it again when Colin McGoldrick took a quick shot and Woodcock jumped on the rebound, giving the Tigers a one-goal lead.

The Tigers continued to play hard and control the puck but the Eagles didn't quit. Early into the third period, the Eagles tied the game.

With under four minutes left in regulation time, Rice scored the winner.

Three days later, the Richmond Hill Stars handed

Aurora a similar 3-2 defeat.

Eric McGhie and McGoldrick scored for Aurora.

This was the first meeting this season between the Tigers and the Stars.

Both teams are close in the standings and the Tigers needed the win, but it was not to be.

Richmond Hill jumped into a three-goal first period lead.

However, as the second period begins, the Tigers took command of the game.

McGhie got the Tigers on the board with their first marker.

Three minutes later, Aurora narrowed the gap to one as McGoldrick scored.

With the play in the final period featuring end to end rushes and good scoring

chances for both teams it was surprising that neither team could add to the score sheet and the Tigers went down to defeat 3-2.

On Sunday, Aurora defeated the Markham Waxers 4-2 as Torres, Alexander Simardone, Woodcock, and Stewart Gable scored for the winners.

Midway into the first period, the Tigers get on the board when Eric McGhie broke to the Waxers net and took a great shot. Torres scooped the rebound, putting the puck into the back of the net.

Aurora held the one-goal lead until the third period.

Four minutes into the final stanza, the Waxers tie the game.

But Aurora fights back with a goal from Simardone.

Within 30 seconds, they do it again when Woodcock scored to give Aurora a commanding two-goal lead.

With the aid of a two-man advantage, Markham narrows the score.

With penalties for both clubs mounting, the last few minutes are played in various levels of full, regular lines.

As the time was winding down and the Waxers net empty, Gable got the puck out of the Tiger end and then shovelled it down the ice, just making it into the empty net, icing the game for the Tigers.

Lacrosse event a huge success

The longest lacrosse game, played in Aurora last year, was so successful it has become an annual event.

This year, the game will be 36 hours long.

Last year, Aurora Council approved a request from Jim Zacher of the Aurora Masters Lacrosse Association to organize and play the longest box lacrosse game in modern history with lacrosse players from across the province helping accomplish the task.

The special event of a 25-hour game at the Community Centre had two goals; to raise awareness of Canada's first national sport and to raise funds for the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness.

Zacher appeared before the general committee at that time on behalf of DOVE (Determined to Oppose Violence Everywhere) in hopes of raising money and public

awareness of the Abuse Centre.

He requested the town's support in a number of ways including providing the Community Centre free of charge which included the floor time and the auditorium for the duration of the event.

He also requested that councillors participate in the opening and closing ceremonies and to join players on the floor during the marathon game and to secure pledges for the Abuse Centre

After receiving a staff report, at a subsequent meeting council agreed to waive the fees for the event.

At a recent general committee meeting, Zacher appeared to advise that the 2008 event was successful and raised more than \$47,000 for the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness.

He also presented council a DOVE 2008 Thank You

Poster as a small token of appreciation.

He advised that the charity lacrosse initiative was now an annual event and a 36-hour game was being planned for June 12, 2009.

His presentation was received.

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Dr. Catherine Mahut, left, the Surgical Oncology Lead in the Southlake Regional Health Centre Digital Cancer Program, shows off state-of-the-art cancer equipment with Joanne Blyth, Professional Resource Technologist, during an open house last week dealing with the services that will be offered within the new Stronach Regional Cancer Centre now under construction. The Centre will provide life-saving treatment to more than 1.2 million residents in York and Simcoe by the year 2012. The Centre is expected to open in the fall of 2009.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

BizPaL service arrives in Aurora

Starting and running a business in the Town of Aurora just became easier thanks to BizPaL, a new online business permit and licence service that saves time spent on paperwork and helps entrepreneurs start up faster.

Last week, the Honourable Diane Ablonczy, Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism), on behalf of the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, together with officials from the

Province of Ontario and

Phyllis Morris, Aurora Mayor, welcomed the launch of BizPaL in Aurora.

BizPaL is an innovative project that provides entrepreneurs with simplified access to the information on permits and licences that they need to establish and run their businesses.

The unique partnership among federal, provincial, territorial, regional and local governments is designed to cut through the paperwork burden and red tape that small busi-

ness owners encounter.

The BizPaL service in Aurora was developed by the Town of Aurora, the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada.

"I am glad to see BizPaL extended to more communities in Ontario. It's an example of government making things easier for Canadians," said Ms Ablonczy. "At a time of global economic uncertainty, we need to do everything we can to help Canadian businesses, especially small business-

es, which create so many of our new jobs. BizPaL is a simple, cost effective way to provide that kind of practical help."

"The right plan for Ontario in these challenging economic times includes our commitment to work with business to strengthen our economy," said Ted McMeekin, Ontario's

Minister of Government Services. "BizPaL will give our entrepreneurs a valuable edge in getting permits and expanding their businesses."

Area business owners and entrepreneurs can access the service by visiting www.ServiceOntario.ca/bizpal or www.town.aurora.on.ca and clicking on "Business Services."

The Province is looking forward to expanding BizPaL to other areas of Ontario over the next year.

First high school now 120 years old

The year 2008 marks 120 years since the Aurora High School, now known as Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, first opened its doors.

In 1888, 44 students shared two classrooms in a building on Church Street, now the famed Church Street School, that will soon become a renovated Culture Centre that will house the Aurora Museum.

Four years later, the high school moved to Wells Street.

Another building, today's structure, was built on the Wells Street site in 1923, but parts of the original high school were left intact.

The year 1952 marked the creation of the new Aurora District High School on Dunning Avenue, which was

renamed Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School nine years later.

G.W. Williams celebrated its centennial of the original Aurora High School in November of 1988.

In the absence of both a football team and a controversial and aging building, sometimes the Aurora High School of today is shunted to the side.

Located on 155 Wellington Street West, that school first opened its doors in 1972, but word on its fate has yet to be released.

The Aurora High School, located at Wellington Street and Murray Drive is noted for its French Immersion Program and its focus on music.

A rivalry of sorts has developed between the

two Aurora public high schools.

Van-Rob Stampings building is up for sale

The Van-Rob Stampings Inc. plant at 95 Dunning Avenue has a "for sale" sign out front, but company executives are unwilling to explain.

The facility in question is Van-Rob's second Aurora plant. The company's head offices are at 200 Vandorf Sideroad.

Officials at both locations said they were not at liberty to discuss the situation.

Commercial real estate company, CB Richard Ellis Limited, is handling the sale.

A CBRE quarterly report from a previous year indicates the 95 Dunning Avenue facility's original sale value was an approximate \$5.4 million. Currently it is listed for \$6.9 million.

Robert Comeau gets new job as deputy fire chief

Former Aurora volunteer firefighter, Robert Comeau has been named the new Deputy Fire Chief, Operations, for the Central York Fire Services.

Chief John Molyneux made the announcement recently.

Robert was selected from a group of applicants and brings with him nearly 22 years of experience with both Central York Fire Services and the former Aurora Fire and Emergency Services.

He currently lives in Aurora with his wife and two sons.

He holds a Certificate in Public Administration from Ryerson and has his Advanced Level Diploma in

Fire Protection Technology from the Ontario Fire College.

Robert held the position of President with the Aurora Professional Fire Fighters Association and is currently the Treasurer for the Central York Professional Fire Fighters Association.

He will work closely with Deputy Chief Paul Leslie, Support Services, in order to provide leadership to a consolidated fire service that provides fire prevention, public fire safety education and fire suppression service to the growing Towns of Aurora and Newmarket.

Robert fills the void left by Deputy Chief Ken Bone who retired recently,



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Changing face of Aurora's south end



There a whole new look in Aurora's south end these days. The Aurora Shopping Centre is getting a facelift that will affect every store in the huge plaza and Shoppers Drug Mart has opened a two-storey operation right



across the street. Shoppers is located on a site once occupied by a Canadian Tire outlet.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

The story of the gateway sign

By DICK ILLINGWORTH

What appeared to be a simple issue developed into a major problem for Aurora Council as they experienced difficulty in how to spend \$80,000 for an entrance sign at Highway 404 and Wellington Street East provided by Whitwell Developments in May, 2005, for a gateway feature at the intersection.

It was thought the problem had been solved in June when council approved the construction of one gateway sign located within the loop on the northbound lane of Highway 404 and that the sign should be lit with a standard electrical hook-up.

As a result the town issued three Requests for Proposals for the different components of the gateway sign project including landscaping, sign manufacture and installation and lighting.

The estimated total cost of the three components prepared by a consultant was \$81,879 which included \$25,890 for site works and landscaping, \$39,000 for the sign, \$10,000 for electrical works and \$6,989 contingency.

The town received two bids for the site works, both well over the budget amount, an incomplete bid for the sign and no bid for the lighting.

The current status of the project is that the town needs a more accurate submission from contractors for the cost

of the sign landscaping and the lighting component of the project and staff will proceed with a Request for Quotation process to obtain the necessary quotes for the work.

The town is applying to Whitchurch-Stouffville for a building permit as the sign is located in their municipality and given the additional work that needs to be undertaken, staff envision that the timeframe for the project should be extended to the 2009 construction season.

This project has been managed to date by the Economic Development Office and staff members recommended that project management be shifted to the Leisure Services Department as their staff is better equipped to manage the construction project on behalf of the town.

In addition to the \$80,000 provided by Whitwell Development the town provided \$11,635.

The town has paid the consultant Envision Tatham \$14,510.11 for their work leaving a balance of \$77,125 for the sign project.

Wellington Street was considered as a primary gateway to the municipality, and in March, 2001, the Economic Development Advisory Committee was asked to prepare cost estimates and details for the gateway feature with funds to be provided in the 2002 budget.

In December, 2002, council endorsed a recommendation from the Advisory Committee and for funds to be included in the 2003 budget, but nothing happened.

Then in May, 2005, the Whitwell offer was received and the issue was referred back to the Economic Development Advisory Committee and staff members to prepare the design of the feature, the cost and other details including installation.

In March, 2007, the Advisory Committee washed their hands of the issue and referred it back to council as the cost estimates were in excess of the \$80,000 with the recommendation that council make a decision pertaining to the additional funds required.

Councillors expressed concern about the proposed cost and the requirement for additional funding and suggested that alternatives be considered.

In June, 2007, council appointed Mayor Phyllis Morris and Councillors Al Wilson and Stephen Granger to an Ad Hoc Committee with a mandate to develop some alternative recommendations regarding gateway signage to bring closure to the long outstanding issue.

At a recent general committee meeting the report of the Ad Hoc Committee was adopted without question or comment recommending the gateway feature be two signs with the town logo, but without the tag line as it was decided it would be too difficult to read at high speed.

One sign will be for southbound traffic on Highway 404 and the other for northbound traffic.

It was suggested a consultant be engaged to prepare the plans and site specifications as required by the Ministry of Transportation.

When approval has been received from the Ministry, three Requests for Proposals will be issued, for the sign, the solar lighting and landscaping and once contractors have been selected for work to commence with the entire project not to exceed the \$80,000 donated by Whitwell Developments.

Now council is back at square one and agreed with the staff recommendation to transfer the project to Leisure Services and that Leisure Services staff be authorized to re-tender the project.

Things are a tad slow at new Cultural Centre

At a recent meeting of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, Brian Arnott of Novita Interpares Limited presented the final report for the Strategic and Business Plan for the Church Street School Cultural Centre.

The committee agreed to recommend to council that the report be received, a public communications program be implemented and the report be adopted.

Council later received as information a report on the projected schedule including anticipated completion date for the renovation and reconstruction works at the Church Street School Cultural Centre.

Approval was also given to increase the contract for Lynch and

Comisso Architects by an additional amount not to exceed \$50,000 to a total contract value of \$93,500 to account for additional services.

As a result of council decisions the project has experienced several revisions and additional architectural services were required to address these revisions.

Pending Building Department and Fire Protection inspections, the expected date of substantial completion for the project was mid-October.

In July, council endorsed the Strategic and Business Plan prepared by Novita and it was recognized that there was a need for some administrative support and council engaged Ken Whitehurst on a contract basis to fulfill the Administrative

Support position.

He started work August 18 and has been meeting with perspective board and volunteer members to prepare a list of candidates to allow council to choose the first three members of the new board of directors.

In order to expedite the process an advertisement was placed for the Program Directors position to be hired as the first

order of business of the new board.

Staff members reported that things are not moving along as quickly as had been hoped and listed the tasks identified by Novita and the status of each point.

The update on the Church Street School Cultural Centre project was received as information by council at their November meeting.

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In-Home Consultation Available



This house at 92 Wells Street in Aurora will receive a heritage designation plaque. It's one of eight locations in town that have been approved by Aurora Council to receive the plaque, seen in the upper right hand corner of this page.

Eight properties get Heritage designation

Last Tuesday, Aurora Council passed bylaws designating eight heritage properties in Aurora under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

These eight properties bring the total number of individual heritage designations in Aurora to 38 properties including 12 designations for 2008.

The list of recent designations includes three early 20th Century homes along Wells Street: The Morley Andrews House; The De La Haye House and the Eleanor and Ernest Robinson House.

The designation of these three properties along with six others over the past two years helps to ensure that the special heritage character of Wells Street will be conserved for future generations of Aurorans.

The other designations include Victoria Hall, formerly the Disciples of Christ Church at 27 Mosley Street; two late Victorian era buildings - the Benjamin Willis House at 80 George Street, and the George Russell house at 42 Temperance Street; "Alloa Lea" - a 1930s Colonial Revival home at 100 Old Yonge Street and "The Blacksmith's Tree", a significant 80-year old Burr Oak Tree located at 15260 Yonge Street.

The designations were achieved by the Heritage Advisory Committee with the cooperation of property owners, as part of the program of commemorating heritage properties in Aurora through designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

In recent years Aurora has more than tripled the

number of heritage designated properties, which is one of the reasons why Aurora was selected as the 2009 winner of the Prince of Wales Prize for municipal heritage leadership.

Heritage Designation recognizes and reinforces the cultural value and community appreciation of heritage properties and provides protection against demolition.

Designation does not prevent change to buildings, rather it provides a mechanism to guide any proposed changes to harmonize with the significant heritage attributes of the building.

Designation does not restrict uses or changes to the interior of properties, nor does it impact property values. Designated properties are identified with a commemorative metal plaque.

Here is a brief summary of each site:

Victoria Hall, also known as the former "Disciples of Christ Church" has excellent cultural heritage value.

The building is a good and rare example in Aurora of a smaller church building built in the Gothic Revival Style.

For most of the 20th Century, the former church has served a variety of local functions, including the public library, health hall and event headquarters.

The designation of this municipally-owned property is a strong demonstration of the municipal commitment of Aurora towards heritage preservation.

"Alloa Lea", has excellent cultural heritage

value. Historically, the house was built in 1937 for long-time Aurora resident, Mrs. Edith Winnett.

A significant occupant of the building was Dr. Kenneth B. Ketchum, a Headmaster of St. Andrew's College from the 1930s to the 1950s.

The house is an excellent local variation of Colonial Revival Architecture with the influence of the Georgian Style.

The Benjamin Willis House is a good example of a late Victorian-era farmhouse built with the influence of the Gothic Revival Style which was later updated using the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement in the early 20th Century.

The house is named for a long-time early occupant and retired farmer Benjamin Willis.

The George Russell House is a good example of a vernacular, frame house, built with the influence of the Gothic Revival Style for workers at the Fleury Foundry.

The house is adjacent to the site of the former Temperance Hall, which gave Temperance Street its name. The house is currently undergoing rehabilitation as part of a conversion for use as a restaurant.

The De La Haye House, built circa 1925 is a good example of a Craftsman Bungalow house built in Aurora at the turn of the 20th Century.

The house was built for the De La Haye family, Orlan, Guila and their son Stuart.

Orlan worked as a shoemaker at the Sisman Shoe factory.

The Morley Andrews House is a good example of an Edwardian Classicism Style home built on the Rosemont Survey in the early 20th Century.

The house is closely associated with Morley Andrews, a successful businessman in the lumber trade, who also served as a member of council and Town Clerk in the first half of the 20th Century.

The Eleanor and Ernest Robinson House, located adjacent to the Morley Andrews House is another good example of an Edwardian Classicism Style Home.

The house has historical value in its association with local builder, William Lewis Stephens.

Early occupants of the house were associated with local industries such as the former Sisman Shoe Factory.



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November 29

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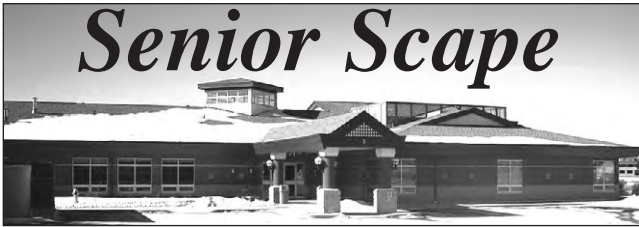
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Senior Scape



Piece of history in parade Saturday night

By BRIAN WARBURTON

The Santa Claus spectacle will parade through Aurora this Saturday evening, November 22nd and the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) will have a well-decorated float and will feature seniors and the sleigh from Hillary House which is being refurbished.

Judy Buchanan who organized the seniors' float informs me that she dug the sleigh out of 50 years' neglect in a barn and Judy is herewith acknowledged for recognizing this piece of our history.

I have heard estimates that the sleigh might be as old as 150 years, but that is a rumour that needs confirming or correcting.

It is clearly very old and it is interesting and I hope I can locate some of its history, discover who the former owners were, and who might have constructed it.

In its fully refurbished condition it will not be displayed on the lawn outside as I indicated but, inside Hillary House where it will be protected and preserved.

The craftsmen in the ASA woodshop, led by Ron Coe, are thrilled to be working on this piece of history. Ron invited me in to see how the job is going and it is looking good.

Home Hardware donated paint for the wood and the metal and other necessities to help with restoration, and I think Hillary House and all of Aurora is going to be thrilled with this neat little piece of Aurora's history.

Incidentally, at the membership drive last Friday, the woodshop and the sleigh probably drew the most interest and attention from the throngs of people who toured the centre.

Sleep Apnea and Snoring and what can be done about it will be the subject of a presentation on Thursday, November 20th, at 2 p.m.

This is a fairly common affliction and consequently may be a well-attended presentation, so please sign up for it.

Medigas Healthcare professionals will discuss how Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Snoring can yield to therapy.

For more information call Marie Leone at 905-713-0608 or e-mail leoneml@aci.on.ca

Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence held an open house at their Presentation Centre Grand Opening recently.

Those invited to attend included members of the ASA and local dignitaries.

This development will prove important not only to Aurora, but also to the ASA because so many of

the new residents will be attracted to the ASA and they will bring their own special brand of good society, capabilities and aptitudes to add to a pretty good existing mix.

With the opening of this new residential building and the consequent influx of new seniors to Aurora, the ASA is certain to benefit from a new round of high quality membership growth.

To make clear the special relationship existing between the ASA and Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence, a special presentation of a Nintendo Wii System was made to the ASA and Charles Sequeira, who took possession of the equipment, said this will add a new element of fun to the seniors' centre.

A wealth of programs and activities are a daily way of life in the ASA and the Nintendo Wii System will get a full work out,

daily.

Even though the approaching Christmas season and holidays are filling our thoughts with the powerful thoughts and memories of Christmases past, the ASA continues daily with a full and exciting schedule of activities and programs of all kinds.

A new membership purchased at this time will not expire until the end of 2009.

The computer club, pool room, woodshop, cards, dancing, crafts, knitting, carpet bowling, badminton, table tennis and sewing clubs and lots more will all greet new members.

If you need help of any kind it is always available, so regardless of whether you are proficient in an activity or not, you will find all the help you can imagine.

Aurora Seniors Bridge Results

Monday, November 10 - N/S: Rose White and Gloria Smith; Mary Oglanby and Joan Rotenberg. E/W - Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin; Greta Ogden and Ed Smereka; Marcella Lawless and Pat Leeson.



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COMING EVENTS

From page 2

Beach Boys and ABBA, Call 905-727-9932 for tickets at \$35 for general admission and \$25 for Legion members.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Annual Aurora Santa Claus Parade. 6 p.m. on Yonge Street from Orchard Heights Boulevard to Murray Drive.

Local artist and author Nancy Hallas will tell a tale about a clever mouse then offer children between the ages of 6 and 9 the opportunity to model their own mouse character at the Aurora Public Library beginning at 2 p.m. The fee is \$6 per child.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business After Five from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m. at M & L Fotografics, 15032 Yonge Street.

York Region Small Business Enterprise Centre Workshop Series presents Into Bookkeeping and Taxes, hosted by the Town of Aurora in the Leksand and Holland Rooms of the Town hall from 9 a.m. until noon. The fee is \$30 and you can register by calling 905-830-4444 ext. 1572 or 1-877-464-9675 ext. 1572.

NOVEMBER 28-29

"That Darn Plot" at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive. Curtain at 8 p.m. Also showing on various dates in December. For further information or tickets, call 905-727-3669.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Aurora Senior Citizens' Christmas Bazaar at the centre from 9.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Included will be a silent auction, collectible table, crafts, sewing, and woodworking, and 28 outside vendors. There will also be a 50/50 raffle, which will take place at 2 p.m.

NOVEMBER 29-30

Aurora Optimist Club annual book sale at the Aurora Public Library, Yonge and Church Streets, Saturday, November 29 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, November 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Tree Lighting ceremony takes place at the town hall and features an open house at the seniors' centre, as well as a puppet show in the council chambers featuring The Grinch That Stole Christmas. Event begins at 6.30 p.m. for two hours.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

The Aurora Legion presents Aurora Borealis featuring The Newcomers with their Legends Show. Call 905-727-9932 for tickets at \$35 for general admission and \$25 for Legion members.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Amnesty International hosts its annual Write-a-thon at Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge St., Aurora, from 2 to 4 p.m. Write cards of support to human rights prisoners around the world. For information, call 905-713-6713.



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